Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Wheat streak mosaic is a major problem this spring in areas of central and western Kansas, and fields adjacent to or near stubble fields will sustain significant yield losses, according to J. A. Appel of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture in Topeka. (Kans. State Board Agric. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep. No. 7, 12 April 1991)

Ascomycetes are important formers of mycorrhiza on seedling eucalypts and other ectomycorrhizal plants after fire in Australia, reports J. H. Warcup of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in Adelaide. (Mycol. Res. 95:329-332, 1991)

A phylogenetic tree based on small-subunit rRNA sequences showing positions of Athelia bombacina, Aureobasidium pullulans, and Colletotrichum gloeosporioides among those of 19 other eucaryotes has been developed by C. A. Illingsworth and associates at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. (Exp. Mycol. 15:65-75, 1991)

Fusarium oxysporum and Radopholus similis were the most frequently associated fungus and nematode on banana roots in the Ivory Coast, and the effects of the association were cumulative on roots, report T. Mateille and S. Folkertsma, Centre ORSTOM, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. (Rev. Nematol. 14:3-8, 1991)

Useful sources of resistance to root-knot nematodes (Meloidogyne javanica) have been identified for corn, and both general and specific combining abilities provide significant variations, report Y. S. Poerba, G. L. Windham, and W. P. Williams, USDA-ARS, Mississippi State, Mississippi. (Nematropica 20:169-171, 1990)

In a modification of Riddell's slide culture technique for viewing microfungi described by J. C. Coettzee and A. Eicker of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, agar is poured into a petri dish and a block of agar is attached to the lid surface. The block is inoculated, the dish is inverted, and a coverslip is applied at observation. (Phytophylactica 22:361-362, 1990)

Of 41 strains of Aspergillus flavus, 30 were toxicogenic on natural media, 23 on wheat, 27 on rice, and 12 on mixed feed, report M. T. Cutuli and associates at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain. The amount of toxin produced was strongly related to the composition of the substrate. (Mycopathologia 113:121-125, 1991)

Phytophthora meadii, a pathogen predominant on rubber trees in Sri Lanka and India, may be a species hybrid, report E. Sansome of Stonecroft, Warwickshire, England; C. M. Brasier of Alice Holt Lodge, Surrey, England; and P. B. Hamm of Oregon State University, Corvallis. At least four other Phytophthora species may be parents. (Mycol. Res. 95:273-277, 1991)

Simulated acid rain reduced needle growth and delayed development of epistomatal waxes and four types of deformed stomatal complexes in Scots pine, according to M. Turunen and S. Huttunen of the University of Oulu, Finland. (Can. J. Bot. 69:412-419, 1991)

Eleven strains of Ascochyta pisi and six of A. fabae produced ascochitine (an important phytotoxin in pathogenesis) on solid substrates and were toxic to larvae of Artemia salina in a bioassay, report E. Foremska and associates at Agricultural University, Poznan and Warsaw, Poland. (Mycotoxin Res. 6:93-97, 1990)

Fatty acid profiles can be used to distinguish the soft-rotting group of erwinias, according to J. M. Wells and H. E. Moline, USDA-ARS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Beltsville, Maryland. (J. Phytopathol. 131:22-32, 1991)